# Events in Tibet, 1997: A Brief Chronology

## Culture & Language

**JAN**

**Excerpts from a speech by Chen Kuiyuan, TAR Party Secretary, 11 July 1997**

"The first such view [of the "Dalai clique"] is to equate Tibetan national culture with Tibetan religion, alleging that the Tibetan national culture is actually a Buddhist culture and that there would be no Tibetan national culture without a Buddhist culture. Some people say that the Tibetan national culture is connected to religion in form and essence. Some others say that college-teaching material will be void of substance if religion is not included and that in that case, colleges would not be real colleges. If what such people talked about were a Buddhist college, I would have no comment. But what they refer to is a Tibet University so they have no reason whatsoever to make such an allegation. After all, is the Tibetan national culture equivalent to a Buddhist culture? Is only Buddhism Tibetan culture? It is utterly absurd. Buddhism is a foreign culture.

[...] Various nationalities should culturally exchange with and learn from one another in order to improve their cultures together [...] The Tibetan national culture is long-standing and well-established. In inheriting the culture, it is necessary to analyse it, to discard its dross, and carry forward the good part of it. The development of national culture is a result of 'developing what is useful or healthy and discarding what is not'.

**FEB**

[...] If they do not learn the Chinese language in schools in Tibet, Tibetan students will be affected. This is not a matter of other nationalities but a matter of the Tibetan people themselves. This is a matter concerning whether the cultural quality of the Tibetan nationality can be rapidly raised and whether the Tibetan people will be able to achieve the four modernisations along with the people of other nationalities throughout the country. In Tibet, it is practical and correct to vigorously develop bilingual teaching according to the provisions of the 'Law Governing Regional National Autonomy'."

**Source: Tibet Daily [SWB 5 August 1997]**

**MAR**

**APR**

**17 April:** Tenzin, deputy secretary of the TAR Party Committee, announces that Chinese language study will be introduced from the first year of schooling. Under the 1987 "Provisions on the Study, Use and Development of the Tibetan Language", children up to the age of nine were to be taught only in Tibetan, and Tibetan medium education was to be extended to children up to the age of 15 by 1993, to senior schools by 1997, and gradually to tertiary institutions. Tenzin describes the decision as a "reversal" of part of the 1987 regulations, which he says have proved "impractical". The announcement coincides with unconfirmed reports that the committee overseeing Tibetan language development has been disbanded.

**MAY**

**28 May:** Gen Lamrim, a 75 year old lama who was one of the most famous Buddhist teachers in Tibet, dies at Drepung monastery after a long illness. He was widely regarded as one of the greatest teachers in the Gelugpa school of Tibetan Buddhism to have remained in Tibet after the flight of the Dalai Lama and other leaders in 1959. He was revered for his scholarship, his continued practice of Buddhism throughout the Cultural Revolution, his mystical abilities and his refusal to accept any political position. He was exceptional in that, unlike most high-ranking Tibetan teachers, who are recognised at birth as "tulkus" or re-incarnated lamas, his status was based on merit alone.

**JUN**

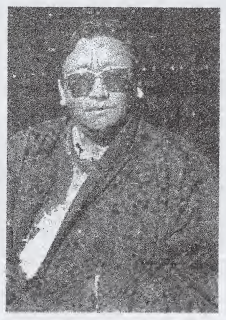
**18 June:** Chen Kuiyuan tells Party members in the keynote speech at a meeting of the Tibet delegates to the 15th Party Congress in November to wage a "blow for blow struggle against the Dalai splittist clique", and describes the motives of moderates who treat Tibetan culture with respect as "very sinister".

**19 June:** The Tromsikhang Palace, built by the 6th Dalai Lama in the 17th century, is demolished this week. The demolition is part of a five year wave of modernisation in Lhasa which by the end of 1996 had led to the demolition of 350 out of 600 historic buildings standing in the old city when the Chinese arrived. 28 historic buildings in the area are reported to have been demolished since January 1997, 15 of them during the last month.

**JUL**

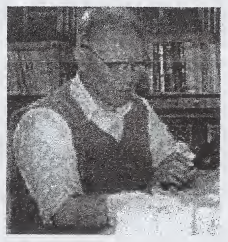
**11 July:** Geshe Yeshe Wangchug, who became in 1986 the first Tibetan to be awarded the Geshe Lharampa degree since the Chinese take-over, dies in a car crash in Kongpo in the TAR.

**21 July:** Dungkar Lobsang Trinley (Dungkar Rinpoche), one of the leading cultural and intellectual figures of modern Tibet and recognised by China as a "national treasure", dies from cancer. He was widely regarded by Tibetans as one of the greatest scholars in post-Cultural Revolution Tibet.



**AUG**

*Above, Tenzin Jigme, the 6th Retring Rinpoche, who died in February at the age of 49*



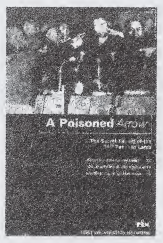
*Above, Dungkar Rinpoche*

**SEP**

**OCT**

**NOV**

**7 November:** Chen Kuiyuan calls for special vigilance against a fourth category of "hidden enemy" - "reactionaries long hidden inside the region". This is a potential targeting of persons among the "patriotic personalities" or Tibetan cadres who still have feelings of loyalty towards the Dalai Lama. Chadrel Rinpoche, former abbot of Tashilhunpo Monastery in Shigatse, is given as an example. According to Chen, he was "trusted by and received special treatment by the Party and government for many years, rebelled against the Party and country at the crucial moment, and stabbed the Party in the back".




*Above, the 70,000 character petition of the 10th Panchen Lama, as published by TIN*

**DEC**

## Patriotic Education, Religion & the Dalai Lama

*Above, Patriotic education session at Drepung monastery, July 1997*

**14 March:** Lobsang Dondrub, Lhasa City Party Secretary, says that Tibet must intensify efforts in drafting local statutes governing management of religious affairs. He says that anti-China and religious forces abroad have repeatedly used religion to carry out infiltration and sabotage in Tibet. He says: "In China there are no special organisations or special citizens that are above the law. It is necessary to improve management over religious affairs and actively guide religions in adapting to socialist society."

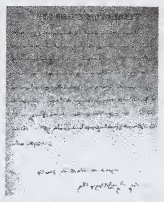
**17-22 April:** Xinhua releases four major articles attacking the Dalai Lama. The first argues that he is "using negotiations as a façade to deceive public opinion and to win sympathy" and accuses him of "playing a trick to expand his activities to split the motherland". The second accuses him of "using Tibetan Buddhism as a political tool to incite separatism" and says that he "has stood as the biggest obstacle to building the normal order of Tibetan Buddhism". The third accuses him of having made up "lies, created animosity between the different ethnic groups, and doing everything possible to stir up riots in Tibet" and the fourth argues that he does not represent the Tibetan people but that he is "a tool of Western anti-Chinese forces" and that he will "come to no good end".

**14 May:** The associate professor of the TAR Party School says on Tibet TV that the articles "indicated the most clear-cut stance, the most authoritative voice and the firmest determination of the Party Central Committee" in the struggle against the Dalai Lama. An article in the Tibet Daily warned that the "Dalai clique was the principal source affecting Tibet's stability".

**23 May:** Raidi calls for intensified patriotic education in monasteries and vigilance against sabotage and infiltration.

**16 June:** Monks in Choede monastery in Gongkar county, Lhokha prefecture, protest during a meeting held to criticise the Dalai Lama. One monk, Jampel Tendar, is detained, reportedly for putting up handwritten posters declaring support for the Dalai Lama and Tibetan independence.

**18 June:** In the first known example of a total boycott, about 20 monks of Samdrubling monastery in Tsethang county in Lhokha prefecture walk out and close down the monastery when local Party officials instruct them to criticise the Dalai Lama and to denounce the pro-independence movement.



***Left,* Photograph of poster at Sakya monastery - reference material for re-education sessions, September 1996**

**Translation of above text:**

What is our position concerning the struggle with the Dalai clique? Answer: Our position concerning the struggle with the Dalai clique is to show a clear stand that Tibet is an inseparable part of China. To destroy the Dalai clique splittists, we must be consistent in confronting the Dalai clique and prepare for a long running struggle. We must also set current foundations to increase management over work affairs. We must efficiently achieve the region's internal tasks and effectively carry out international struggle so as to win higher international awareness. The truth and justice are on our side, and we must be energetic, self-motivated, truthful, proud, accurate and articulate in fighting with the Dalai splittist clique.

**From the Work Team [literally, Work Affairs Committee] residing at the two monasteries, 2 September 1996**

**16 September:** Ragdi says that the child designated by the Dalai Lama as the 11th Panchen Lama leads a very good life, goes to school as every other child does and is perfectly free without restraint.

*Above, the boy recognised by the Dalai Lama as the 11th Panchen Lama*

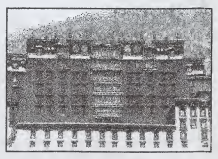
**16 October:** The Information Office of the State Council issues a White Paper on Freedom of Religious Belief in China, consisting of five parts, including the present conditions of religion, legal protection of freedom of religious belief, support for independence and initiative in management of religious affairs, and protection of the right to freedom of religious belief for ethnic minorities.

**17 November:** Ragdi describes the struggle against the Dalai clique as a "political and class struggle" and a "life and death class struggle between the masses and the restorationist forces of the feudal serf owners".

**20 November:** Jampa Kelden, head of the TAR Nationalities and Religious Affairs Commission, announces that political re-education is to be extended to Tibetans in agricultural communities, towns, cities, government organs and schools, apparently following the "success" of a pilot project carried out in Kyimshi township in Lhokha prefecture.

**26 November:** A Tibet TV commentary calls for the declaration of "total war - in thinking and in theory and in the ideological realm - on the Dalai and his separatist forces".

## Politics & Propaganda



*Above, the Chinese flag flying on the roof of the Potala*

**19 February:** Deng Xiaoping dies. On 21 February Tibet TV broadcasts a statement of support for Deng Xiaoping's policies by Tenzin, deputy secretary of the TAR Party committee. This is the first reported comment on Deng's death by a leading provincial official.

**7 March:** Xinhua announces the release of the film "Red River Valley", set against the backdrop of the British invasion of Tibet in 1904 under the leadership of Colonel Francis Younghusband. The film, endorsed by China's Minister of Radio, Film and Television, has as its theme the patriotism displayed by the Tibetans and the Han in fighting against the British, according to Xinhua.

*Above, Tibetan dancing in front of the Potala Palace in celebration of the Hong Kong handover*

**15 May:** Gyaltsen Norbu, chairman of the TAR People's government, delivers the annual government "Work Report" in Lhasa. He says that in 1996 Tibet achieved sustained rapid economic development and further stabilised the social situation by waging a "tit-for-tat" struggle against separatism and carrying out an in depth "strike hard" campaign. The region also co-ordinated development of various social undertakings, especially in the building of socialist spiritual civilisation, and made a good start in implementing the 9th Five-Year Plan. He says that in 1997 the region was to continue to deepen the anti-separatist struggle, unremittingly carry out the "strike hard" campaign and step up the building of socialist spiritual civilisation. Gyaltsen Norbu warns that achieving the set targets for 1997 would be very "arduous".

**1 June:** The TAR government sends Hong Kong a tapestry as a sign that the "various ethnic goups [in Tibet] cherish Hong Kong's return to the embrace of the motherland". The tapestry is embroidered with the words "Celebrate the Establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" in Tibetan and Chinese, and is 240 cms long, to represent the 2.4 million people in the Tibet region.

**1 July:** 10,000 people attend official celebrations in Lhasa to mark the handover of Hong Kong, according to Xinhua. Chinese flags are raised in the centre of the new square in front of the Potala Palace as part of celebrations. Gyaltsen Norbu, chairman of the TAR People's government, says at the rally that "Western anti-China forces do not have the ability to resist the historic tide of unity for the motherland and nor does the Dalai Lama".

Unofficial Tibetan sources in Lhasa say that the rally was given the go ahead only at the last minute because of security concerns, and that people were obliged to attend. Chinese flags were raised on every rooftop, including the Potala and the Jokhang.

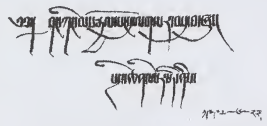
**Delegations to the TAR, 1997**

**12 - 18 March:** M. Mali [M. Pierre Morel], French Ambassador to China, pays an official business visit to the TAR and meets Gyatso, executive vice-chairman of the TAR, on 17 March.
**10 - 13 April:** Willy Wimmer, a member of the West German Parliament and vice-chairman of the Organisation for Cooperation and Security in Europe, visits the TAR together with an entourage of 4 people.
**14 April:** A delegation from the Nepalese Parliament, led by Anand, arrives in Tibet as guests of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress Standing Committee.
**15 - 17 April:** A 5-person delegation from the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, led by Jan Egeland, Norwegian State Secretary, makes a 3-day visit to the TAR.
**May:** The Canadian Ambassador to China and a "religious consultant" visits the TAR.
**28 June:** Israel's Ambassador to China, Ms Nanyueming [Ms. Ora Namir], meets Ragdi, deputy secretary of the TAR Party Committee, during her visit to the TAR.
**July:** German MP Herta Daeuber-Gmelin visits the TAR.
**8 - 12 August:** Mexican Senator Gustavo Caravajal Morena, also vice-president of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, visits the TAR.
**20 - 30 August:** A Swiss delegation including 3 members of parliament, 3 journalists, a scholar specialising in Tibet, and Foreign Ministry Ambassador Urs Ziswiler, leader of the group, visits the TAR on a fact-finding mission.
**September:** Antje Vollmer, vice-president of the German Federal Assembly, visits the TAR.
**September:** Seven members of the German Parliamentary Foreign Relations Sub-committee on Human Rights visit the TAR.
**October:** The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, led by human rights experts Kapil Sabil of India and Louis Joinet of France, visits the TAR as part of an 11-day mission in China at the invitation of Beijing.

**7 November:** TAR party secretary Chen Kuiyuan dismisses rumours of changes in personnel in the TAR leading group and of leading members of the TAR Party committee returning to China in a speech he gave to "non-party figures" in Lhasa.

**17-20 November:** The 3rd plenum of the 5th TAR Party committee reflects a continuing assertiveness on the part of the leadership of the TAR, particularly in their battle against the Dalai Lama and in their determination to increase Chinese economic migration to Tibet.

**27 November:** China Internet News puts online a 90-minute video documentary to show how the Dalai Lama "practised serfdom in Tibet, defected from his motherland and engaged in splitting China".



*Above, "Welcome to Hong Kong's return to the embrace of the motherland", an inscription by the Chinese-appointed 11th Panchen Lama*

## Protests, Arrests & Imprisonments

**19 January:** Public security organs at all levels in Tibet carried out a "forceful strike hard struggle against selected targets", reports Tsultrim, director of the TAR Public Security Department, at a meeting on public security in Lhasa.

**31 January:** 17 criminals are executed for crimes including murder, robbery, theft, rape and a bombing case, according to a Tibet Daily article.

*Above, a collection of knives being sold illegally, and seized as part of the "strike hard" campaign in Lhasa*

**2 March:** Guo Jinlong, an executive deputy secretary of the TAR, warned that the struggle against "division facing [Tibet] will become more acute and complicated", at the 3rd enlarged meeting of the Tibet Armed Police Corps Party committee.

**18 March:** Tibet Daily announces the adoption of effective measures by the TAR prison system to boost socialist spiritual civilisation in prisons.

**30 April:** Tibet TV reports that the spring-summer "strike hard" campaign has "further improved public order, winning unanimous praise from all in society" and has "hit hard at the criminals' rampant arrogance". On 29 April the public security department of Lhasa city announced that several criminal cases had recently been "smashed".

**7 May:** Chadrel Rinpoche, former abbot of Tashilhunpo monastery in Shigatse and the head of the official search team for the Panchen Lama's reincarnation, is sentenced to 6 years imprisonment for crimes of "conspiracy to split the nation, colluding with splittist forces outside the region, and disrupting Tibet's stability and development" and "betraying state secrets".

Chamba Chung, a monk who assisted Chadrel Rinpoche, and Samdrub, a businessman who worked in the trading cooperation associated with the monastery, are sentenced to four and two years respectively for the same offences.

*Above,* **Chadrel Rinpoche**

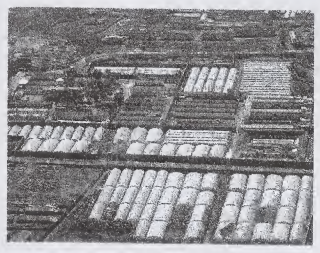
**5 August:** The "Dalai clique has carried out some bombing activities and are still attempting to carry out some assassination activities", says Gyaltsen Norbu, chairman of the TAR People's Government, in an interview with Japanese journalists in Lhasa.

**30 August:** Xinhua reports the visit of Antje Vollmer, vice-president of the German Federal Assembly, to Drapchi prison in Lhasa. She was said to have described the management of the prison as "scientific and rational" and that she "will try to come again as a guest". (Vollmer later issued a statement saying that this article misrepresented her views).

**10 September:** The Bundestag subcommittee on human rights and humanitarian aid visit Drapchi prison as part of a 3 day visit to Tibet. The South China Morning Post reported Gerd Poppe, a member of the delegation, as saying that the "visit to the prison was totally set up". The delegation's enquiries as to whereabouts of the Panchen Lama chosen by the Dalai Lama were unanswered.

**11 October:** The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention visits Drapchi prison. The Working Group interviewed 10 inmates privately, some of whom were picked at random and some chosen from a list of political prisoners submitted to the authorities, the group claimed in its official report. Following the publication of their report it has been confirmed that a protest took place in the prison during the visit. Prisoners involved in the protest, which involved a declaration of support for the Dalai Lama, are said to have been beaten and put into solitary confinement after the independent experts left the prison. A reliable unofficial source said that since the incident some Tibetan cadres have been transferred to other posts and that the number of Chinese cadres in the prison has been increased.

**6 November:** The winter "strike hard" campaign is aimed at "cracking down on separatists' sabotage activities and various criminal activities", according to a Lhasa City Public Security Bureau mobilisation meeting.



*Above, Drapchi prison near Lhasa*

## Development, Economy & Environment

**January:** The Chinese authorities say that the European Commission should exclude foreign NGOs from involvement in the five year "Integrated Rural Development Project" in Panam, 200km south-west of Lhasa. The Commission had offered to pay 5.89m pounds (US$9.42m) towards the project, which aims to boost the yield of one of Tibet's prime grain-producing valleys. EC funding has previously gone only to NGO projects.

**Developments during 1997: economic indicators**

- The TAR recorded a GDP of 7.698bn yuan for 1997, an increase of 13.2% over 1996.
- Qinghai Province's GDP is expected to increase by 9% overall during 1997, with industrial output expected to have increased by 10.84% and output in the building industry by 20.6%.
- At the end of 1997, peasants and herders still constituted more than 80% of the total Tibetan population.
- The average income of Tibetan farmers and herders reached 1,040 yuan (US$130) by the end of 1997, up 6.7% from the previous year (the increase in 1996 had been 9.3% over 1995).
- In Qinghai province farmers' average income reached an estimated 1,320 yuan (US$165) in 1997, a 12.5% increase over the previous year.
- The average income of urban residents in the TAR reached 5,130 yuan (US$641) in 1997, a rise of less than 2% over 1996, but now exceeding the nation's average.
- There were 180 private businesses in the TAR by October 1997 (according to Xinhua), contributing about 60m yuan in taxes per year, more than the sum paid by state enterprises.
- A hundred foreign investors have made a total investment of US$236.29m in the TAR up to July 1997. The value of foreign investment in 1996 was US$9.6m (Xinhua).
- Tax revenues in 1997 reached an all time high of 470m yuan (US$58.75 million), an increase of 25% on the previous year (Xinhua).
- The TAR spent more than 400m yuan (US$50m) on agriculture, livestock, farmland, livestock, irrigation, river development and technological projects in 1997, and 2.8bn yuan (US$35m) on key construction projects including a fibre optic cable project and mobile phone systems in six cities (Xinhua).
- Tibet produced 791,900 tons of grain in 1997

**16 April:** A two-day meeting for exchanging experiences on economic assistance to Tibet, sponsored by the CCP Central Committee and the State Council, is held in Beijing. Various ministries and provinces, including the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Shanghai municipality and Hubei province, give briefings on their methods of assistance and experience. Representatives attend from 35 provinces/municipalities/regions as well as over 40 central and state departments and mass organisations.

**15 May:** Gyaltsen Norbu delivers the annual government "Work Report" to the TAR People's Congress. Policy will continue to focus on economic construction, particularly in agricultural areas, and to accelerate the development of five "pillar industries": mining, forestry, agricultural and livestock by-products and handicrafts, tourism and building. Development depends on attracting "private entrepreneurs from outside Tibet". The strategy also calls for the acceleration of construction of the hydro-electric projects at Yamdrok Tso, Menlha and Woka, to bring installed capacity up to at least 30,000kW, an increase in power supply of around 50%. According to the "Work Report", Tibet's economy during the previous year attracted substantial subsidies, equivalent to half the value of its output, from Chinese provinces as well as the centre.

*Above, the hydro-electric power station at Yamdrok Tso, which finally started producing power in September 1997*

**August:** Lhasa is linked with the national digital mobile telecommunications network, following an investment of US$2.45m from the Chinese Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

In the same month it is reported that the number of large-scale private businesses in Qinghai province rose to 2,100, with 26,000 employees, compared to 362 private firms in 1990. By the end of June 1997 there were 67,000 household businesses in Qinghai, employing 100,000 people (Xinhua).

**September onwards:** Severe snowstorms hit Nagchu, Ngari and Shigatse prefectures in the TAR and Yushu prefecture in Qinghai province. In Nagchu, temperatures are consistently between -30 to -40 C, and foreign aid workers estimate that more than 20% of the total number of yaks in the region have died.

**6 September:** The TAR government asks county treasury officials to balance their budgets by the year 2000. Xinhua reports that Tibet is likely to have a revenue income of 600m yuan (US$75m) in the year 2000, more than double its income of 1995.

**15 October:** The geological strata of oilfields in the Changtang Basin in northern Tibet is similar to that of oilfields in the Persian gulf and the Karakorum in Central Asia, according to research by the Ministry of Geology and Mineral Resources and the China National Petroleum Corporation. Xinhua calls Tibet "the last and largest oil belt on the continents".

**20 October:** An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale occurs in the Kunlun mountain range between Xinjiang and the TAR.

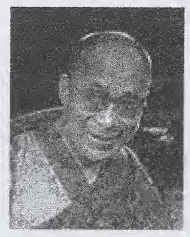
**12 November:** An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale hits Manyi in the northwest of Nagchu prefecture.

**18 November:** Gyaltsen Norbu, in a speech to the 3rd enlarged session of the 5th TAR Party Committee, says: "We have not freed ourselves from the ideological confusion of whether we are practising capitalism or socialism...are we prejudiced against the non-public sector of the economy? Because of this type of thinking, some comrades began to exclude outsiders" (Tibet TV).

**17 December:** The European Union suspends the Panam development project in Tibet, following British newspaper reports that the Chinese authorities had forced the only experienced British aid worker in Tibet to end work on rural education and leave the country. (On 19 February 1998, it was reported that the Chinese authorities had agreed to allow the aid worker to return to Tibet.)

## Outside Tibet & Tourists

**20 January:** A 21-year old nun, Tashi Choeden, a 14-year old boy, Kunga, and an 8-year old girl, Kadon, freeze to death on the Shargung La pass in Tibet while attempting to escape to Kathmandu, Nepal. Twenty four survivors from the same group reached Kathmandu but were stripped and robbed by Nepalese police on the way.

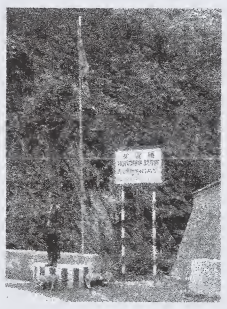


*Above,* **the Dalai Lama**

**24 February:** The Dalai Lama announces officially that he will make a 6-day visit to Taiwan in March.

**3 March:** Nepalese truck drivers stage a two and a half day demonstration outside the Tibetan border post of Dram to protest against an attack by a border policeman on a Nepalese taxi driver. According to reports from the area, harassment of Nepalese traders by Chinese police has led to a sharp drop in cross-border trade and to high-level diplomatic attempts to improve border relations.

**March:** More than 60 Tibetans working for the government as tour guides in Lhasa lose their jobs because they recently visited India without permission from the authorities.



*Above,* **the Friendship Bridge where Nepalese truck drivers staged a demonstration in March**

**25 May:** The Dalai Lama tells a meeting of Tibetan exiles during a visit to New York that his reincarnation will "definitely" be born outside Tibet if the Sino-Tibetan dispute is not solved by the time he dies.

**June:** Six countries previously uninvolved in the Tibet issue, Mexico, Cambodia, Bielorussia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, make statements of support or are publicly thanked by the Chinese government for their support of its position in Tibet. This follows the launch of a "new phase" in a Beijing-endorsed campaign against the Dalai Lama which accuses him of lying in his claims to be a pacifist, a religious leader, and someone who is interested in negotiating with China.

**June:** Tibet's borders are sealed off to individual visitors as security is tightened during the Hong Kong handover period. Since the first week of June, tourists have only been allowed to enter the TAR as members of tour groups.

*Above,* **Tibetan refugees on the Nangpa-La pass near the Tibet-Nepal border**

**1 August:** Madelaine Albright, US Secretary of State, announces to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the US has decided to appoint a special coordinator for Tibet who will maintain close contact with the religious and cultural leaders of the Tibetan people.

**20 August:** Medical officials at the Tibet People's Hospital in Lhasa refuse to allow a seriously injured French tourist to be evacuated from Tibet until US$11,000 is paid for eight days stay in the hospital. A medical evacuation team is not permitted to take the patient, who had been in a coma for six days, to a waiting Lear jet for two days, until well-wishers in the US guarantee to meet the hospital's fees.

**September:** A hotel in Lhasa is closed to foreign visitors and travel restrictions are imposed on American tourists, following a clandestine trip to Tibet by US Congressman Frank Wolf in August. The Hotel Kyichu in the Barkor area of central Lhasa is ordered to close to foreigners from 22 September, and Americans already in Lhasa as individual tourists are told to leave Tibet by the end of September, according to travel agents in Nepal. Wolf, who spent four days in Tibet as a tourist from 9 August, accompanied by an aide and an American fluent in Tibetan, stayed in the Hotel Kyichu during his visit. He held a press conference in Washington on 20 August describing his trip and criticising Chinese policies in Tibet.

**19 October:** Armed Chinese police from the Tibetan border town of Dram (know as Zhangmu in Chinese) cross the Nepal-Tibet border by the Friendship Bridge at Kodari and raid and search a house in Tatopani, 5 kilometres south of the frontier. The police were searching for a Nepalese businessman, Bhakata Bahadur Shreshta, in order to enforce a debt that Shrestha had failed to pay to a trader in Dram. A lengthy editorial in the Kathmandu Post on 30 October said that the incident could not be justified "under any circumstances" and that it violated "all norms of international behaviour".

**26 November:** A delegation of senior Party officials from Tibet that had planned to meet journalists and Government ministers in London cancels its trip. The Chinese government is understood to have refused to accept conditions imposed on the delegation's programme by the Foreign Office in London. The conditions were understood to include meetings with the All Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet, the Tibet Society and the Free Tibet Campaign.

**6-9 December:** The Norwegian government holds "constructive" talks with a senior delegation from the TAR headed by Gyaltsen Norbu, chairman of the TAR government.

**21 December:** A two year old child dies from cold just after a group of 26 Tibetans cross the Nangpa-la pass, about 100 kilometres west of Everest. The Tibetans, who were walking through waist deep snow, were attempting to escape to India.

PHOTOGRAPHS CHLOE FETTERSEN & SARAH PYLE-ZONDA; CHINA'S TIBET; ZIZANG BIAO (TIBET DAILY); TIN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